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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

REQUEST TO WITHDRAW NOTICE OF ABANDONMENT

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

MAR 26 2004

Technology Center 2100

Sir:

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Notice of Abandonment mailed February 24, 2004 in the above-captioned application based on the following information.

The Notice of Abandonment states that the decision by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interference rendered on October 31, 2003 was not responded to and because the period for seeking court review of the decision had expired. However, as evidenced by the attached Request For Rehearing Under 37 C.F.R. 1.197(b) document, Applicants did timely submit a Response on December 31, 2003, via facsimile to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. The facsimile transmittal page is also submitted to indicate that the faxed three page Request For Rehearing was successfully transmitted.

Based on the attached documents, it is believed that the holding of abandonment is improper and, accordingly, the undersigned respectfully requests that the holding of abandonment be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,

By:



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Date: March 24, 2004